

Members

Rep. Gregory Porter, Chairperson
Rep. Terry Goodin
Rep. Paul Robertson
Rep. Robert Behning
Rep. Timothy Harris
Rep. Jeffrey Thompson
Sen. Teresa Lubbers, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Phil Boots
Sen. James Buck
Sen. James Arnold
Sen. Jean Breaux
Sen. Connie Sipes



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION MATTERS

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Authority: P.L. 140-2008 (HEA 1246-2008)

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 22, 2008
Meeting Time: 1:00p P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 4

Members Present: Rep. Gregory Porter, Chairperson; Rep. Terry Goodin; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Jeffrey Thompson; Sen. Teresa Lubbers, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Phil Boots; Sen. James Buck; Sen. James Arnold; Sen. Jean Breaux.

Members Absent: Rep. Paul Robertson; Rep. Timothy Harris; Sen. Connie Sipes.

Chairman Porter called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. He summarized the agenda and then called Dr. Charlene Alexander, Indiana School Counselor Association, to speak concerning findings and recommendations for the Committee to consider on the subject of college readiness and the role of school counselors. She handed out a list of the findings and recommendations (Exhibit A) and addressed the concerns of Committee members as they pertained to each of the listed items.

Representative Thompson made a motion to include the wording "postsecondary" after the words "college readiness" in the first finding presented to the Committee by Dr. Alexander.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

The motion was seconded by Senator Buck and unanimously approved.

Chairman Porter announced to the Committee that findings and recommendations concerning high school athlete steroid testing will be presented at the Committee's next meeting. He then called on Representative Goodin to speak on the issue of school transportation costs. Representative Goodin stated that due to the increase in the cost of transportation, schools should be allowed to appeal their transportation costs budget. Rep. Goodin then called on Indiana Legislative Services Agency fiscal analyst, Chuck Mayfield to discuss the issue further. Mr. Mayfield handed out a worksheet (Exhibit B) that showed the cost of fuel as it compares to the total transportation costs for the years 1993, 2003, and 2008 for all of the school corporations in Indiana. He stated that the statewide average for the cost of fuel has significantly increased over the last 5 years.

The Committee discussed the possibility of recommending legislation for the upcoming General Assembly to address an appeals process for fuel costs in regards to the school transportation fund.

Senator Lubbers presented a handout (Exhibit C) to Committee members that outlined the history of virtual education in Indiana along with policy considerations and recommendations. She stated that the key areas discussed by all interested parties concerning virtual education included aligning curriculums with the Indiana academic standards, having assessments, accountability and qualified teachers. Chairman Porter and Senator Lubbers agreed to present findings and recommendations concerning virtual education in Indiana at the next Committee meeting.

Chairman Porter presented the Commission on Disproportionality in Youth Services report (Exhibit D) along with a handout (Exhibit E) that outlined 6 recommendations specifically in the area of education to be discussed by the Committee. In response to Committee member concerns, Chairman Porter agreed to invite a member of the Commission to the next Committee meeting to present details about the rationale and reasons for the report and the process involved in determining the recommendations presented in their report.

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for October 29, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.